

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

In paragraph 2 of the Action, the drawings were objected to because the drawings do not have some reference signs. In this respect, since the reference signs explained in the specification were incorrect, the reference signs have been amended.

In paragraph 4 of the Action, claims 1-7, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In paragraphs 6, 7, 10 and 11 of the Action, claims 1-11 were rejected by Rubscha, Kamesaki et al., Honjo et al. and Yano.

In view of the rejections, claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 11 have been amended, and new claims 12-15 have been filed. Claims pending in the application are patentable over the cited references.

In Rubscha, a document handling system includes a circular path defined by rollers 42-46, an input path communicating between an input tray 20 and the circular path, and a discharge path communicating with an output tray 22 and the circular path. The circular path and input and output paths, and the structures associated therewith are all located at one side of the platen.

In claim 1, the sheet feeding means for drawing a document from the sheet feeding tray is disposed at one side of the document transport apparatus, and the sheet discharging means is disposed adjacent to the transport means at a side opposite to the sheet feeding means and located at the other side of the document transport apparatus. Also, the switch back path is disposed adjacent to the sheet discharging means and located between the transport means and the sheet discharging tray. The switch back path turns the document upside down, reverses a leading end and a trailing end of the document, and guides the document to the sheet discharging means while turning the document upside down again.

In Rubscha, the input path and the discharge path are located at the same side of the platen, different from claim 1. Also, there is no switch back path between the transport means and the sheet discharging tray. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Rubscha.

Kamezaki et al. includes a feed-out path 24, a first switchback path 26, a send-in path 28, a send-out path 30, a second switchback path 32, a return path 34, and a resend-in path 36. As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, all the documents to be read are switched back before being read on the platen 4, and pass the paths 26, 28.

In claims 8 and 9, it is defined that a document from a sheet feeding tray is drawn in a condition such that one edge of the document becomes a leading edge, and the document is transported directly to a predetermined position on a platen in a condition such that said one edge of the document is said leading edge. Namely, the document is transferred onto the platen without changing the feeding direction of the document. In Kamezaki et al., as clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the feeding direction is changed. Thus, claims 8 and 9 are not anticipated by Kamezaki et al.

Honjo et al. was cited to show a guide member 23 disposed at a discharge side of the platen 12. Although the guide member is disclosed in Honjo et al., the basic structure of claim 1 is not disclosed by Rubscha nor Honjo et al. Therefore, claim 5 is not obvious from Rubscha and Honjo et al.

Yano was cited to show a torque limiter on a driving shaft of a transporting roller. Although the torque limiter is disclosed in Yano, the basic structure of claim 1 is not disclosed by Rubscha, Honjo et al. nor Yano. Therefore, claim 6 is not obvious from Rubscha, Honjo et al. and Yano.

As explained above, the features now claimed in the application are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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